

Ethnic Studies at JUHSD

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Land Acknowledgement

A common practice within Ethnic Studies is to acknowledge the land that we live, teach, and learn upon, while addressing the inhabitants who have been there prior to colonization.

Land Acknowledgement



So, I would like to begin by acknowledging that I am a settler on the land that I reside upon and the land that I teach on. This land has been the home to the Ohlone people, and they are still here.

JUHSD Professional Learning Topics

Universal Design for Learning

Framework for planning more accessible lessons, attending to the variability of learners

Teachers examine current practices & are engaged in action research to change at least one policy

Grading for Equity

Constructing Meaning

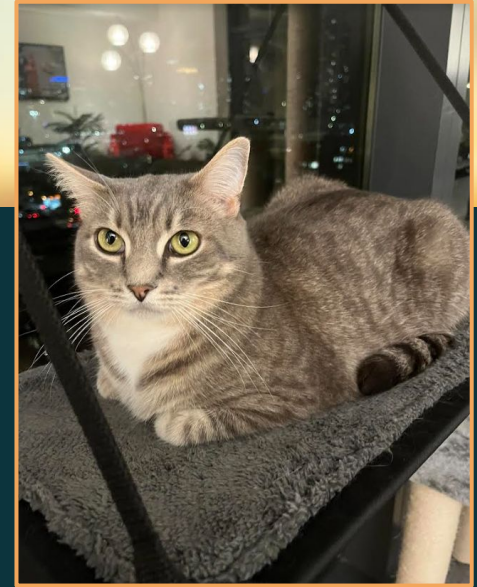
A framework for planning that calls explicit attention to language and student talk

Developed a vision and a course, goal is to move towards a philosophy for teaching and learning

Ethnic Studies Pedagogy

Meaningful engagement of all students in every classroom

A Little Bit About Me



UNIVERSITY OF
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**How did Ethnic
Studies become a
reality at JUHSD?**

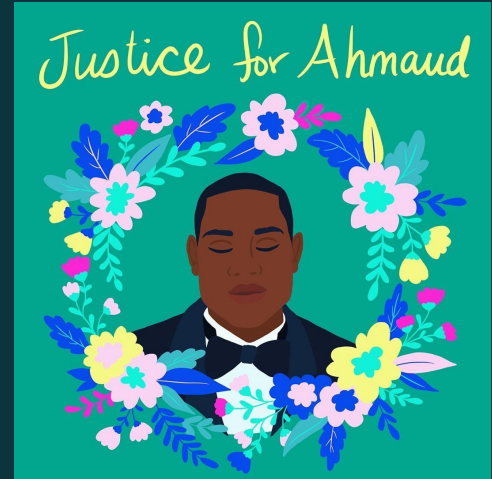
May 25, 2020



March 13, 2020



February 23, 2020



All artwork originally from Shirien Damra, @shirien.createes

“We all came together after the brutal murder of George Floyd, which we see as a continuation of the dangerous institution of white supremacy that is deeply rooted in our country. We hope to rally educators around the idea of anti-racism, actively resisting racist structures through engaging with our community of staff members, students, and families. We are guided by the framework of ethnic studies.” (Summer 2020)

**What are the essential
characteristics of Ethnic
Studies?**

1. **Anti-racist**: The goal of Ethnic Studies is to eliminate racism.
2. **Decolonizing**: A core understanding is that history doesn't begin with colonization.
3. **Community responsive**: It is tailored to the student population of the area or school that the course is taught in.
4. **Intentional**: It centers the stories, experiences, and knowledge of people of color and works against historical erasure.
5. **Hopeful**: Ethnic Studies critically analyzes the world in order to envision a just society and change our surroundings for the better.



Accomplishments
2021-2022

- Ten educators across JUHSD were trained in Ethnic Studies pedagogy and created a vision statement.
- These educators also developed the Scope and Sequence for an introductory Ethnic Studies course.
- JHS, OHS, and WHS prepared to pilot Ethnic Studies courses during the 2022-2023 school year. These sites had partial release days in Spring 2022 to begin coordinating.

Vision Statement

The **vision** for Ethnic Studies in the Jefferson Union High School District is to **provide** safe and brave spaces where students and teachers **center** the stories, experiences, and knowledge of people of color; **challenge** and **dismantle** racism and intersectional systems of oppression; and **cultivate** communities that are committed to wellness, liberation, and solidarity.



Ethnic Studies

Scope and Sequence

Unit 1

Self & Stories

Students explore their identities, those of their peers, and build community in the classroom.

Unit 2

Systems of Oppression

Students name and analyze the systems of power and oppression in society.

Unit 3

Social Movements & Solidarity

Students research historical examples of how people organized against injustice and the role of solidarity.

Unit 4

Community Empowerment & Agency

Students engage in projects that allow them to reflect and enact principles from the course.



Accomplishments
2022-2023

- **Ethnic Studies teachers have been revising the Scope and Sequence for the course, using outside observations and student feedback.**
- **They have been collaborating on unit projects, aligning essential questions, and aligning core understandings through a combination of district release days and after school meetings.**
- **English teachers have been attending professional development to integrate Ethnic Studies pedagogy in their courses.**

Unit 1: Self and Stories

Essential Question:

Will exploring our identities improve how we interact with each other and use our voices?

Unit 2: Systems of Oppression

Essential Question:

Do the systems in our society humanize all people?

Unit 3: Social Movements and Solidarity

Essential Question:

Can organizing resistance to oppressive systems bring about change?

Unit 4: Community Empowerment and Agency

Essential Question:

What will we do to bring social justice to our communities and the world?

**What do Ethnic
Studies classes look
like across JUHSD?**

Oceana High School

- **Integrated English and Social Sciences at the site.**
- **Ethnic Studies is taught within their Humanities 9 course. It is a 1-year course, running from August 2022 to May 2023.**
- **They have 4 sections of the class this year.**
- **It is a 9th grade course taught by four teachers. This is the only school where all 9th graders are signed up for Ethnic Studies.**

Jefferson High School

- **4x4 schedule at the site.**
- **Ethnic Studies is taught as a 1-year course, which means it ran from August to December in 2022.**
- **They had 2 sections Fall 2022 and have 3 sections Spring 2023.**
- **It is a mixed grades course driven by student sign ups, and is taught by two teachers.**

Westmoor High School

- **Traditional schedule at the site.**
- **Ethnic Studies is taught as a semester course backing Health.**
- **They had 1 section Fall 2022 and have 1 section Spring 2023.**
- **It is a 9th grade course taught by one teacher.**
- **A primary objective is to increase the number of students enrolled at the site next year.**

Terra Nova High School

- **This year, multiple staff members are attending professional development at the district to become familiar with Ethnic Studies pedagogy.**
- **The site is planning to pilot an Ethnic Studies course in the 2023-2024 school year.**

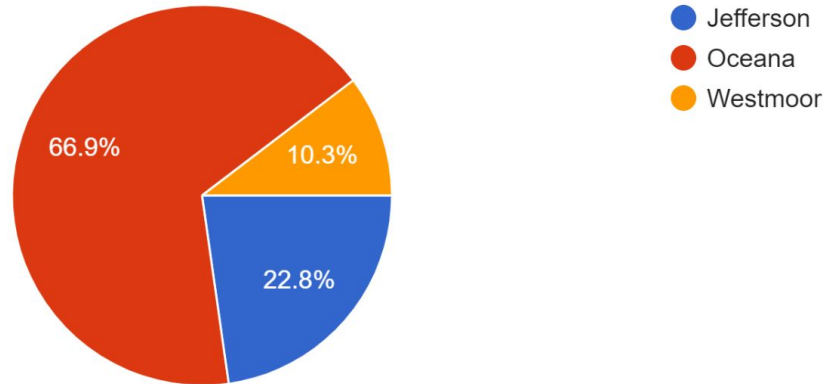
What did the Ethnic Studies student survey illustrate?

Given December 2022

Survey Demographics

1. What school do you attend?

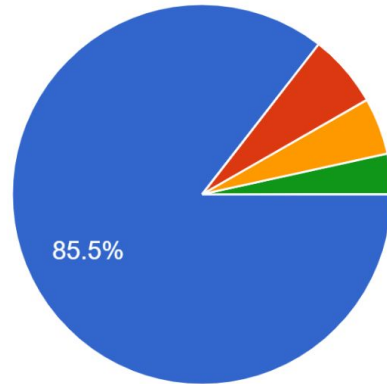
145 responses



Survey Demographics

2. What grade are you in?

145 responses



- Freshman (9)
- Sophomore (10)
- Junior (11)
- Senior (12)

Student Ethnicity

145

students

took the survey
in Dec 2022.



36%

listed **2 or 3**
ethnicities that
they identified
with.

64%

listed **only 1**
ethnicity that
they identified
with.

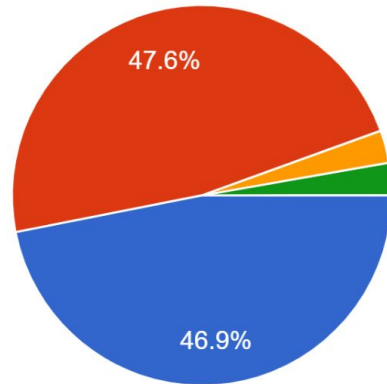
Over 1/3

of survey takers
have mixed
heritage!

Survey Demographics

4. What is your gender identification?

145 responses



- Female
- Male
- Gender non-conforming
- Prefer not to state
- Other

**What were the students'
biggest takeaways?**

Empowerment

I think it is hope.

One major takeaway from this class would be how I view my ethnicity now. I used to think it wasn't as big of a deal but now learning and figuring more about myself and my people, I think that my ethnicity is one of the most important things there is about me.

My biggest takeaway from this class is to start stating my opinions more and to advocate from myself and others.

Sometimes its okay to vulnerable in class.

One of my biggest takeaways was that even in times of struggle, there will always be times of solidarity and unity to help fight and protect.

Relevant Information

One of my biggest takeaways from this class was how uninformed people are about a lot of important topics. It just shows that we need a class like this to educate young students. I found myself talking about what we learned in class constantly to my friends outside of class and being surprised we didn't know about certain topics before. It just goes to show how underlooked a lot of injustices/societal problems are.

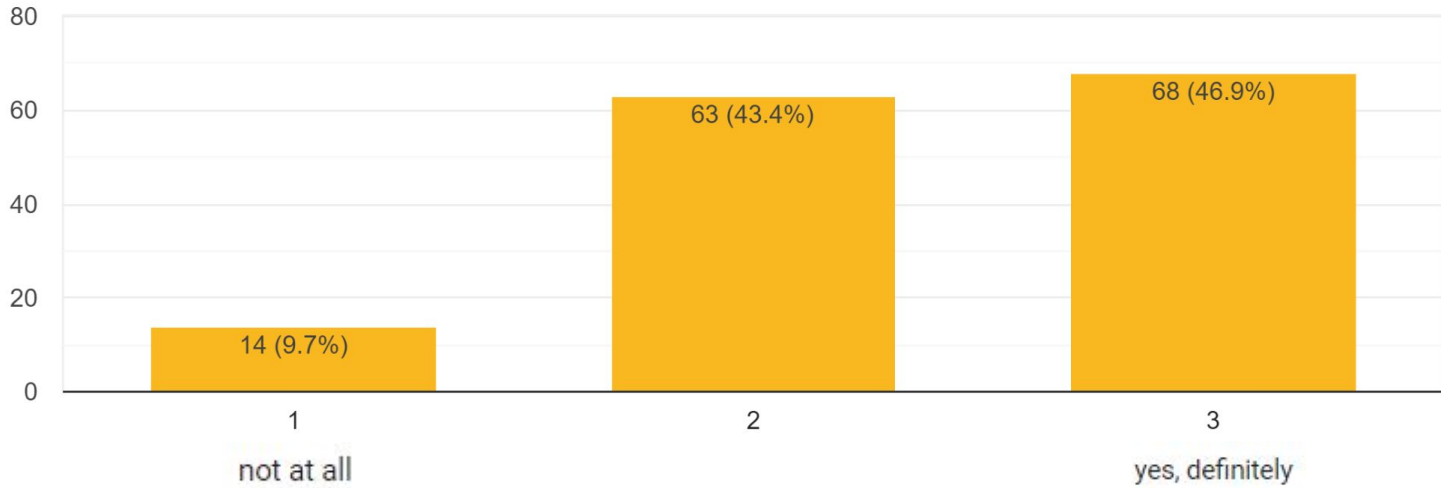
Something I would like to remember was Colin Kaepernick, It was really interesting and it showed different levels of racism and other problems for people of color in "White neighborhoods"

When doing presentations on our culture, I felt very heard knowing I'm not the only one who goes through struggles within family dynamics when it comes to who we are as ethnic people.

**How did they rate an Ethnic
Studies class?**

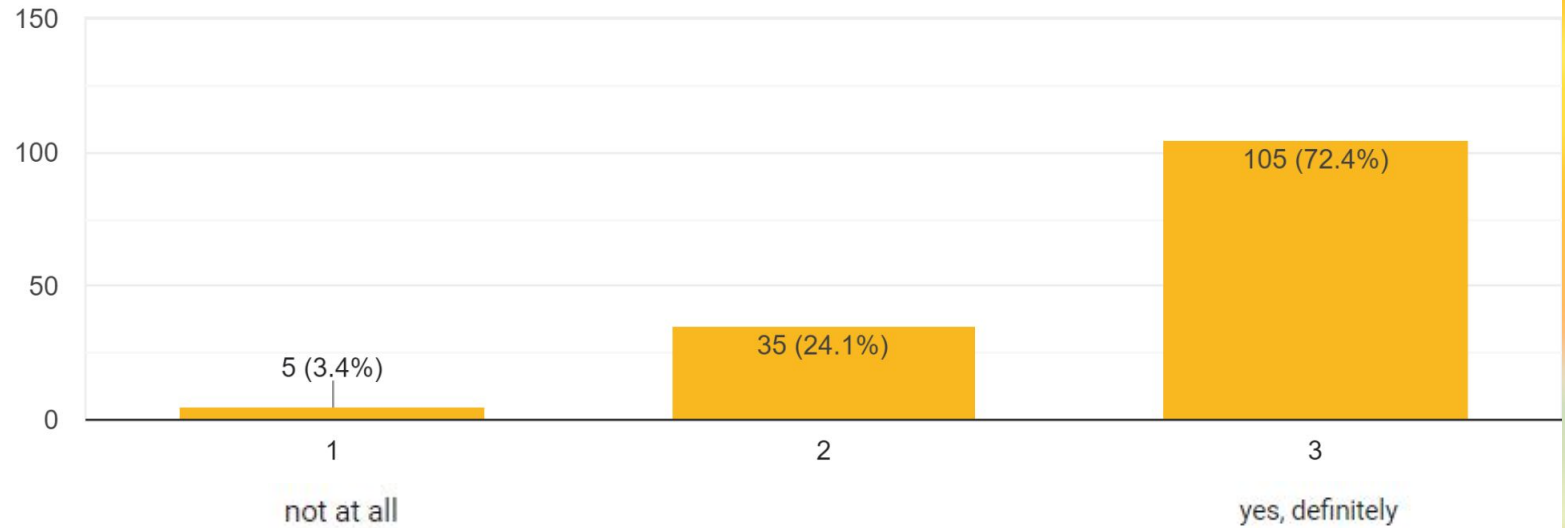
7. Did the class help you develop a stronger sense of self (identity) or understand your culture/community better?

145 responses



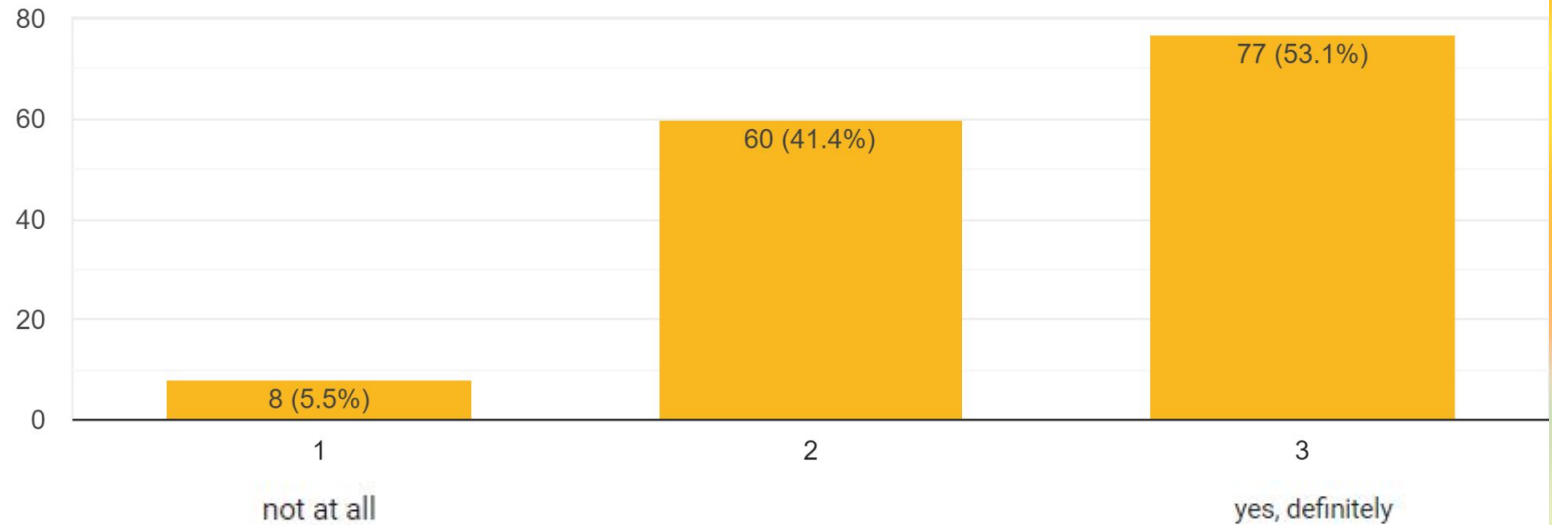
8. Did the class help you understand other cultures/communities better?

145 responses



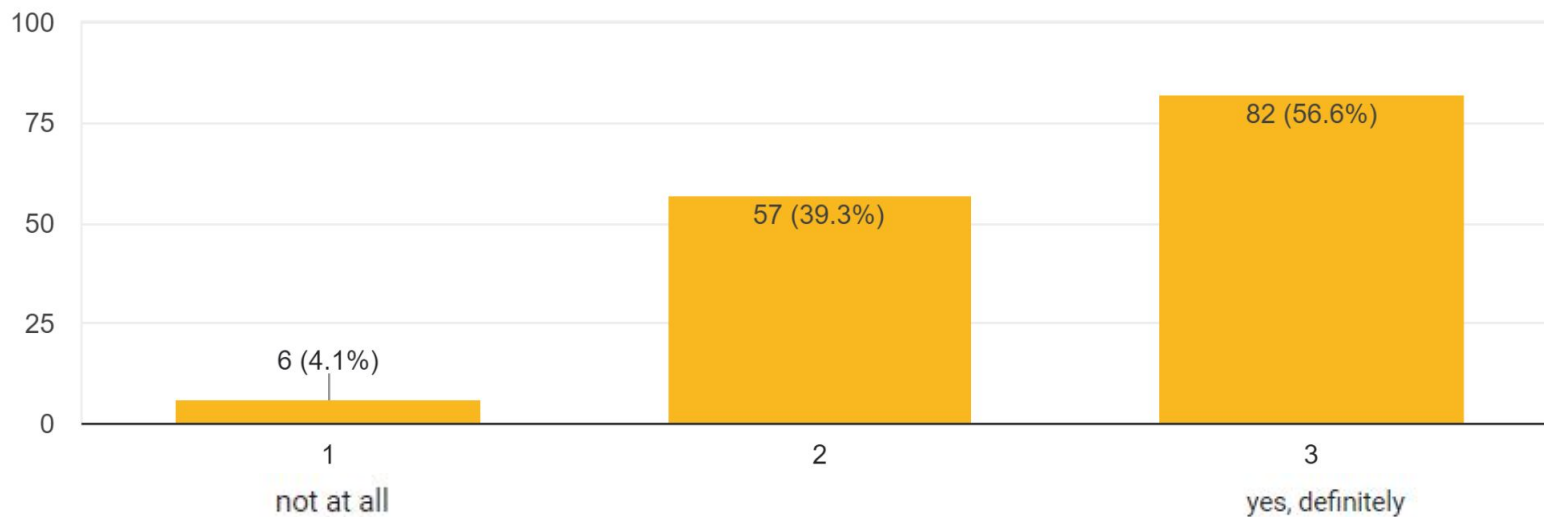
9. Do you feel inspired to learn more about the topics discussed in Ethnic Studies?

145 responses



10. At the core of Ethnic Studies is building a strong classroom community. Did you feel a strong sense of community in this class?

145 responses



Reading List

What are Ethnic Studies teachers reading this year?

❖ The Color of Law	❖ Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You
❖ An Indigenous Peoples' History of the U.S. for Young People	❖ The Lemon Tree: An Arab, A Jew & the Heart of the Middle East
❖ Patron Saints of Nothing	❖ The 57 Bus
❖ Do the Work!: An Antiracist Activity Book	❖ The Distance Between Us: Young Readers Edition
❖ A Different Mirror for Young People	❖ A Young People's History of the U.S.
❖ Pedagogy of the Oppressed	❖ The New Jim Crow

Questions?

Thank you for listening!
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